

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS STATE 177117

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: TARIFF COMMISSION REPORT ON BALL BEARINGS

REF: SINGAPORE 3468

1. IN RESPONSE TO LEE'S INQUIRY CONCERNING A REPORTED
PLANNED INCREASE IN UNITED STATES TARIFFS ON BEARINGS,
EMBASSY MAY TELL HIM THAT:

(A) ON JULY 30 THE TARIFF COMMISSION FOUND THAT BALL
BEARINGS, INCLUDING SUCH BEARINGS WITH INTEGRAL SHAFTS,
ENTERING UNDER TSUS ITEMS 680.33 AND 680.35 (EXCLUDING
RADIAL BALL BEARINGS WITH AN OUTSIDE DIAMETER OF UNDER
9 MM) ARE, AS A RESULT IN MAJOR PART OF CONCESSIONS GRANTED
THEREON UNDER TRADE AGREEMENTS, BEING IMPORTED IN SUCH
INCREASED QUANTITIES AS TO CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY TO THE
DOMESTIC INDUSTRY PRODUCING LIKE OR DIRECTLY COMPETITIVE
PRODUCTS.

(B) TO REMEDY THE INJURY THE COMMISSION FOUND THAT THE
RATE OF DUTY ON BALL BEARINGS ENTERING UNDER TSUS 680.33
SHOULD BE RAISED FROM 6 TO 12 PERCENT AD VALOREM, AND, FOR
THOSE (EXCEPT TYPES UNDER 9 MM) ENTERING UNDER TSUS 680.35,
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DUTY SHOULD BE RAISED FROM 1.7 CENTS PER POUND AND 7 1/2

PERCENT AD VALOREM TO 3.4 CENTS PLUS 15 PERCENT AD VALOREM.

(C) THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS WERE MADE ON THE BASIS OF AN INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED UNDER SECTION 301(B)(1) OF THE TRADE EXPANSION ACT OF 1962 RELATING TO TARIFF ADJUSTMENT AND OTHER ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

2. IF, AS IN THE CASE OF BALL BEARINGS, THE COMMISSION FINDS SERIOUS INJURY, THE TRADE EXPANSION ACT PROVIDES THE PROBLEM MAY BE HANDLED IN SEVERAL WAYS. THE PRESIDENT MAY (A) PROVIDE TARIFF ADJUSTMENT OR IMPOSE OTHER IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, (B) AUTHORIZE FIRMS AND/OR WORKERS INVOLVED TO REQUEST CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE, (C) PROVIDE A COMBINATION OF (A) AND (B), AND (D) ENTER INTO ORDERLY MARKETING AGREEMENTS TO LIMIT IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, IF A TARIFF COMMISSION FINDING ON TARIFF RATES OR OTHER IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IS NOT IMPLEMENTED WITHIN 60 DAYS (IN THE CASE OF BALL BEARINGS BY SEPTEMBER 29), A REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS.

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3. IN 1972, IMPORTS OF BALL BEARINGS COVERED BY THE TARIFF COMMISSION FINDINGS WERE VALUED AT 79 MILLION DOLLARS, OF WHICH JAPAN SUPPLIED 55.8 MILLION DOLLARS, GERMANY 8.6 MILLION DOLLARS, CANADA 8.4 AND THE U.K. 3.5.

4. COMMISSION'S FINDINGS LIMITED TO THE TWO TSUS CATEGORIES OF BEARINGS; NO OTHER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS COVERED. RUSH

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